26. 9019a

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Examiner Roark in Group Art Unit 1644 at (Fax No. 703/746-5174) on March 17, 2003

(date)
Abby Berghella

(Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate)

(Signature)

Patent Attorney's Docket No. <u>033136-119</u>

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
Richard G, Miller et al.) Group Art Unit: 1644
Application No.: 09/541,033) Examiner; Jessica H. Roark
Filed: March 31, 2000) Confirmation No.: 3667
For: METHOD FOR TREATING AUTOIMMUNE AND ALLOIMMUNE DISEASES)))

COMMUNICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Enclosed is a Communication for the above-identified patent application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, 1.20(d) and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Lorna L. Tanner

Registration No. 50,782

P.O. Box 1404

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404

(650) 622-2300 Data: March 17

Date: March 17, 2003

(02/03)

JAK 3/17/03

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(date) Abby Berghella

(Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate)

Signature)

Patent

Attorney's Docket No. 033136-119

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of	}
Richard G. Miller et al.	Group Art Unit: 1644
Application No.: 09/541,033	Examiner: Jessica H. Roark
Filed: March 31, 2000) Confirmation No.: 3667
For: METHOD FOR TREATING AUTOIMMUNE AND ALLOIMMUNE DISEASES)))

COMMUNICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The undersigned wishes to thank Examiner Roark for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview conducted on March 11, 2003 for this application with Gerald F. Swiss (Reg. No. 30,113).

During that telephonic interview, the rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bolton (U.S. Patent 5,980,954) in view of Jacobs (U.S. Patent 5,605,690) was discussed. Specifically, the issue was raised whether the rejection over the Bolton patent should have been raised under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) due to a possible obligation by the inventors of the instant application to assign to Vasogen Ireland Limited. Applicants and the Examiner agreed that notwithstanding the common obligation to assign at the time the invention was made, the parent¹ of the Bolton patent,

(05/02)

¹U.S. Patent 5,980,954 is a continuation in part of U.S. Application 08/352,802, which issued as U.S. Patent 5,591,457 on January 7, 1997.

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U.S. Patent 5,591,457² would not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), (g), or (h) and thus 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) would not apply.

As such, Applicants and the Examiner agreed that the rejection should be reissued with the appropriate art rejection.

Respectfully submitted,

P.O. Box 1404 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404 (650) 622-2300

Lorna L. Tanner Registration No. 50,782 Attorney of Record

Date: March 17, 2003

²Kindly note that the '457 patent discloses the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

BURNS DOANE

DURNS DOANE SWECKER & MATHIS LLP ATTOKNEYS AT LAW

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DATE: March 17, 2003

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